

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-45 were pending. In the Final Office Action mailed July 19, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 19, 21 and 45, objected to 5, 6, 9, 13-17, and 20, and allowed Claims 10-12, and 22-44. The Applicants have cancelled all remaining rejected claims and have re-written objected-to claims in independent format, where appropriate. As such, the Applicants believe that all claims are allowable.

I. Claim 45 Is Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §112(1)

Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner states, "The new Claim 45 was not disclosed in the specification as filed." Office Action, page 2. The Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in order to expedite prosecution while not acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, the Applicants now cancel Claim 45. The Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of Claim 45 at a future time. The Applicants note that the cancellation does not restrict the broader independent claim from encompassing the subject matter of the cancelled dependent claim.

II. Claims 10-12 And 22-44 Are Allowed

The Examiner states, "Claims 10-12 and 22-44 are allowed." Office Action, page 4.

III. Claims 5, 6, 9, 13-17 And 20 Are Objected To For Being Dependent Upon A Rejected Claim Base

Claims 5, 6, 9, 13-17 and 20 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected claim base. The Examiner states Claims 5, 6, 9, 13-17 and 20 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Office Action, page 4. The Applicants now amend Claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 5, thereby putting Claim 1 in position for allowance. The Applicants now amend Claim 8 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 9, thereby putting Claim 8 in a position for allowance. Claim 13 has been

amended into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 1. Claim 13 is thus in a position for allowance. The Applicants now amend Claim 19 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 20, thereby putting Claim 19 in a position for allowance.

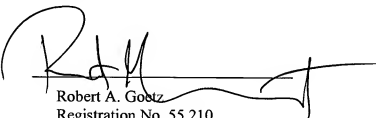
IV. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 19, 21 and 45 Are Rejected

Claims 1-4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and Claims 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In light of the amendments and cancellations discussed above, these rejections are rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants claims as amended should be passed into allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at (608) 218-6900.

Dated: 10/18/2005



Robert A. Goetz
Registration No. 55,210

MEDLEN & CARROLL, LLP
101 Howard Street, Suite 350
San Francisco, California 94105
(608) 218-6900